wind energy, urjagram etc. have been made by the Department of Non-conventional Energy sources and these have been/will be telecast by the Doordarshan at appropriate intervals. Doordarshan covers in their news bulletins, most of the important developmental programmes, schemes, projects including new and renewable sources of energy. National Wastelands Development Board have also made films on various aspects of social forestry and wastelands development for being shown to the people to increase the public awarness.

Requests for Additional Assistance for Talcher Thermal Plant

*388. KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIA:

SHRI BASUDEB MOHAPATRA:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Orissa has urged the Central Government to provide an additional assistance of Rs. 22 crores for securing optimum generation of power at the Talcher Thermal Plant after the current modernisation and renovation programme is completed; and

(b) if so, by when the said amount is likely to be sanctioned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) and (b) During the visit of the Parliamentary Sub-Committee of the Consultative Committee for the Ministry of Energy to the Talcher Thermal Station in July, 1987, the Orissa State Electricity Board requested the Central Electricity Authority to provide additional funds for the renovation and modernisation programme of the station. The technoeconomic viability of the proposal will be examined after a detailed project report has been received from the Orissa State Electricity Board.

Installation of Gas Turbines by DESU

*389. SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA:

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a plan to set up gas turbines was given up by DESU in 1978 on expert advice in view of the comparatively higher cost of power generation;

(b) whether it is a fact that in spite of this gas turbines have now been installed and that their per unit generation cost is about Rs. 1.45, whereas the comparative figures for Hydel and Thermal power are about 20—70 paise and 50—96 paise respectively; and

(c) if so, whether accountability for this recurring heavy burden on consumers has been fixed, if so, with what result?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) The proposal could not be pursued at availability of fuel on a sustained basis was not confirmed.

(b) The per unit cost of generation of the gas turbines is about Rs. 1.45 while the cost of generation from hydel and thermal stations ranges from about 20 to 70 paise and about 50 to 96 paise per unit respectively. DESU has installed the gas turbines after technoeconomic clearance by the Central Electricity Authority, keeping in view the cost as well as the operational requirements and the functions to be performed by the gas turbine units which include providing black start facility, peaking power, and assistance in improvement of system voltage.

(c) Does not arise.